

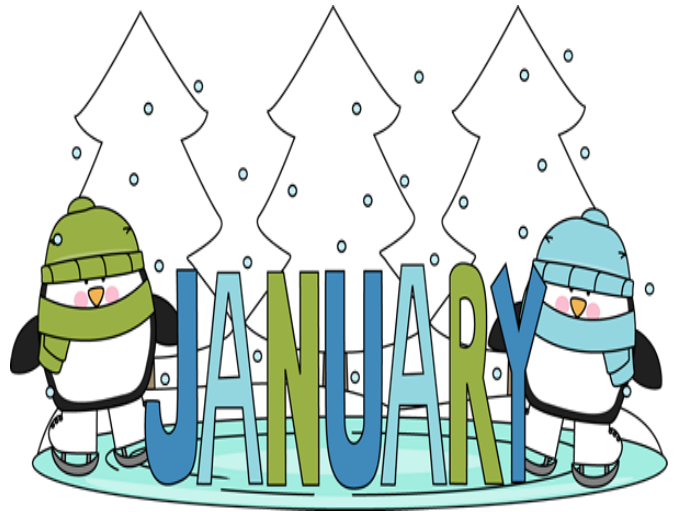
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

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Pastor **Matthew Cephus**
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Music Director **Marty McGinn**
Office Administrator **Jeni Hofstede-Bryan**
Ministers **All members of Gloria Dei**

Caring Sharing Serving Reaching



JANUARY 2024 Worship Schedule

Jan 7 The Baptism of Our Lord w/Holy Communion

Jan 14 Second Sunday after the Epiphany w/Holy Communion

Jan 21 Third Sunday after the Epiphany w/Holy Communion
3 pm Pastor Matthew Cephus Installation

Jan 28 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany w/Holy Communion

*No Wednesday Service and/or Bible Study on
Wednesday, January 3rd OR Thursday, January 4th.
We will resume the following week.*

**Thank you to everyone who donated a poinsettia for the altar.
Gloria Dei looked beautiful during the Christmas holiday.**



New Year's Prayer

May the Lord make my New Year a happy one... Not by shielding me from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening me to bear it if it comes. Not by making my path easy, but by making me sturdy enough to tread any path. Not by taking hardship from me, but by taking all cowardice and fear from my heart as I meet hardships.



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article January 2024

The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MATTHEW . . .

“What’s Next?”

Happy New Year! This month of January is named after Janus, the Roman god of transitions, new beginnings, gateways, passages, and time. Janus is usually depicted as having two faces, one looking backward to past time and one looking forward to future time. As we begin this new year, we often do that very thing: look back at the old year while looking ahead to the new year stretching out before us.

The Israel-Hamas war, Ukraine-Russia war, increase of mass shootings in our nation, the fifth-deadliest earthquake of the 21st century striking Turkey and Syria, leaving nearly 60,000 people dead – we live in strange times. What’s next? Sometimes we ask that question from a perspective of exasperated frustration: *What’s next??!* We wonder (maybe even fear) what other weird things may come our way. But we can ask that same question from a different perspective – from a perspective of hopeful expectation. What am I supposed to learn from this situation that is before me? What is the Lord trying to teach me here? What’s next? There are times in our lives when we feel that we’ve been stretched to the limit, and if we get stretched anymore, we will snap. And it won’t be pretty.

Reflecting on a Gospel lesson from [Matthew 5:1-11](#)

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5%3A1-12&version=ESV>),

there’s a portion of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount commonly referred to as the Beatitudes. That word “beatitude” comes from the Latin, *beatus*, meaning “happy or blessed.” Again and again, Jesus uses this word: “Blessed.” In Jesus’ upside-down kingdom the last are first and the first are last, the powerful and mighty are cast down from their thrones and the lowly are lifted up, the hungry are filled with good things and the rich are sent away empty-handed. Jesus’ kingdom is not of this world, and it doesn’t fit into the framework of this world’s operating definition of how things work. Here in Jesus’ kingdom, that first beatitude reads like this: “Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3). So, what does that mean?

The Message bible puts Matthew 5:3 like this: “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.” Wow! Less of me and more of God? Could that be the very point of those situations in life where I feel like I’m getting to the end of my rope and asking, “What’s next?”

The Lord’s purpose in those trying situations in life is not to make us miserable, but to help us grow as his beloved children. When we try something new in life – begin an exercise program, learn a new language, start a new job – we will be stretched. This may involve some pain, and we may even think: “I can’t do this. It’s too much.” The same holds true in our journey of faith. Jesus never promised that following him would be easy, or that life would always go according to our plan. But Jesus did promise that he would be with us always, even to the end of the world (Matthew 28:18-20). It is precisely in those moments on our journey of faith when we feel discouraged and weak that we need to remind ourselves of Matthew 5:3: “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.”

What’s next? God knows. We do not know what this year will hold for us, but we do know and believe that we have a gracious and loving God who did not withhold the life of his only Son,

but freely gave him up for us all. And because this is true, we have confidence that God will be there for us every step of the way, especially when we feel like we are at the end of our rope. Because of this, "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

Grace to you and peace in Jesus Christ our Savior, **Pastor Matthew**

Celebrating the Holidays with a Joint Service, December 17 (Potluck Luncheon)







Thank you to everyone for attending our
Joint Service!

With Our Sincerest Thank You!

Thank you to everyone at Gloria Dei for the cards, gifts and prayers we received during Christmas. We appreciate the thoughtfulness! It is great to work with such a wonderful congregation with such kindhearted members. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Pastor Matthew, Marty, Dorothy, Jeni

Alpha Sessions, You're Invited!

Alpha is a place to connect with other people who are open to exploring life, faith and meaning. Each session includes a time to connect with others (often over a free meal), hear a short talk on an element of the Christian faith and then a chance for each person to share their own questions with the group. We'd love to hear your perspective!

Sundays, January 7 – March 24 from 3 – 5 pm

Right here at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 3014 McKinley Street NE, Minneapolis



Salvation Army Christmas Tree Gift Collection was a Success!

The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone who took time to shop for new gift items for the Salvation Army. These gifts, mostly toys 😊, were collected and placed under our Christmas tree in the Lobby and with your generosity, gifts collected amounted to **\$795**. WOW! These gifts/toys were sure to brighten a lot of Christmas mornings.

Thank You, Gift Baskets Assembled and Delivered

Thank you to Shirley Holzinger, Patty Lyrenmann and Pam Morelli who assemble and delivered gift baskets to our dear shut-ins. This year, three goodie-filled baskets were delivered.



Sign-up sheets for **2024 Altar Care, Ushers, Flowers and Candles** can be found on the entryway bulletin board.

Sign up for the week that works best with your schedule. Flowers can be ordered through the Church at a cost of \$28 per bouquet plus \$12 delivery fee, or feel free to bring in your own. You will be billed directly from the Church if you order flowers. Candles are \$6.

Offering Envelopes



Please remember to use your new 2024 envelopes beginning **January 7, 2024**. You can simply toss-out or recycle any remaining envelopes you have left-over from 2023.

Operation Christmas Shoebox Update

Shoeboxes for kids

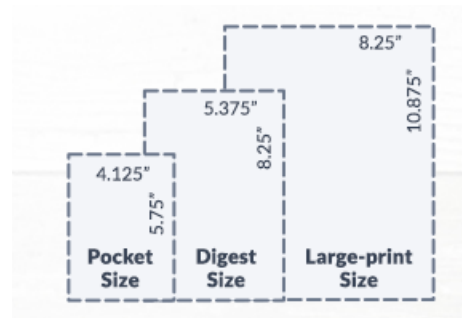


As you may have read previously, Gloria Dei collected 21 shoeboxes this year. These simple gifts are all shipped outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease. As of December 1, 2023 the shoeboxes from GLDC were on their way to two countries: **Chile and Belize**. The mission of Samaritan's Purse and Operations Christmas Child is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

A DAILY DEVOTION FOR ALL!

Start your day. End your day. Take a break in the middle of the day. No matter when you need it, Portals of Prayer inspires you to live each day in Jesus' name.

Within your envelope box are envelope for **Portals of Prayer** payment. Each daily devotion includes a Bible reading, meditation and prayer to apply to your daily life, published in multiple sizes and formats – note the slight cost increase for this years' subscription, for pocket size (regular print) is **\$9.36**, digest-size is **\$19.30** and large print is **\$20.50**. Please use the envelopes designated when you make your payment. *Thank you!*



If you have Thrivent Insurance, don't forget about Thrivent Choice Dollars!
Call 1-800-Thrivent (1-800-847-4836). When asked for subject, say "Choice Dollars". When asked for a choice, press 1. Then answer the next question with your birth date. A Thrivent representative will come on the line, tell the representative you want to direct your choice dollars to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 3014 NE McKinley St, Minneapolis.

By directing Choice Dollars through the Thrivent Choice program, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars. These dollars are distributed among thousands of participating nonprofit organizations and congregations each year.

Thank you for your generous giving!

2024 March of Life

Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life will hold its annual march on January 22, 2024, 12 noon at the Minnesota State Capital. An unforgettable visual commemoration of the 12,000 unborn lives lost each year. Get involved at MCCL.org/March

Deliver Meals on Wheels

With a decline in the volunteer workforce, one-third of the Area Agencies on Aging lost at least 50% of their volunteers since 2019. Meals on Wheels relies on volunteers to help serve older adults low-to no-cost means and helps them remain in their own homes longer. If interested or for info call 612-277-2529.



Around the Community!

Free Drive-Thru Community Dinner at St. Timothy's | January 9th

Drive Thru Community Dinner – Second Tuesday of each month – 5-6:30 pm (or until the food is gone). Free, everyone is welcome! St. Timothy's is located at 825 51st Ave NE, Columbia Heights.

Northeast Senior Luncheons | Second Tuesday of the Month – Served at 11:30 am

Cost is \$10 per lunch. Please pay upon arrival (50 person limit per lunch).

Tuesday, January 9th at Logan Park. Main entrée includes Spaghetti dinner with garlic bread and Caesar salad, ice cream treats for dessert and unlimited coffee (regular or decaf) and water.

Reserve your seat the Sunday BEFORE the lunch by calling Ryan at 612-370-4818 and leave a message, be sure to include the date you will be attending.

Also, check out the **Seniors on the GO upcoming January Trip.**

Thursday, January 4th Bell Museum and Planetarium

Cost is \$30. Tour the Bell Museum (walking) and Omni theater show @ 1:30 pm. Lunch on your own, location TBD @ 11 am. Pick up at 10:30 am at Logan Park. Questions and reservations can be made by call Ryan at 612-370-4818 and leave a message.

Logan Park is located at 690 13th Avenue NE, Minneapolis.

Community Sing with Dan Chouinard

For all who like to sing, hum along, or just tap your toes. Sing and have fun with Dan Chouinard on a cold winter's night! **It's free, but donations welcome.** Wednesday, January 17, 7-8:30 pm, at Northeast United Methodist Church, 2510 Cleveland Street NE (corner of Lowry and Cleveland). Child care provided. Cookies and bars.

Traditional Scandinavian Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner | January 20 @ 12 pm – 6 pm

First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights, 1555 40th Avenue NE, will hold its annual Scandinavian Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner, Saturday, January 20, seating times are 12, 2, 4 and 6. Tickets are \$25, and \$10 for children 2 – 12, under 2 are free and can be reserved by calling Cheryl at 651-633-0679 or www.flcch.org/lutefisk-meatball-dinner. No ticket returns and reservations are required! Tickets are sold through January 14. Dinner includes lutefisk with butter and optional white sauce, meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, mashed rutabagas, herring, beet pickles, lefse, julekake, rice pudding with raspberry sauce.

Northeast Farmers Market Winter Markets

Northeast Farmers Market moves indoors for the winter months. They'll be at Quincy Hall, 1325 Quincy Street NE, on the following dates: Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 3, and April 14, 10 am-2 pm.

ESNS Vital Living class: Senior Tech Help!

Gather in the Tech Lounge **Mondays and Wednesdays, 11 am-12:30 pm.** The Vital Living Program at East Side Neighborhood Services is partnering with Senior Planet from AARP to help older adults use technology to learn new skills, save money, get in shape and make new friends. January 3: **Internet of Things.** January 8: **All Things Zoom.** January 10: **Hosting a Zoom Meeting.** No cost for these classes; all materials needed will be provided. RSVP as space is limited for each class. East Side Neighborhood Services, 1700 2nd St. NE. Registration: 612-787-4086 or VitalLiving@esns.org.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

WCCO 830 AM Radio

Heard each Sunday morning at 6:05 a.m.

Hosted by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (unless otherwise noted)

January 7 (Matthew 6:12; Luke 11:4) "As We Forgive"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, discusses forgiveness--what it is and what it isn't.

January 14 (Matthew 18:27) "How Could She Ever Forgive Him?"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, explains why it's not a contradiction to offer forgiveness while insisting on justice.

January 21 (Psalm 32:1) "The Battleground of Forgiveness"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

January 28 (Psalm 103:11-12) "Forgiveness Is a Gift from Far Away"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola



Daily Devotions from The Lutheran Hour Ministries

With several ways to read and listen, you can get your daily does of Scripture when you need it.

Visit lhm.org/dailydevotions to subscribe for email delivery to your inbox, sign up for the podcasts, or download the app for your mobile device – all for **FREE!**

Something Sweet Needed!

Do you have a favorite cookie, bar or cake recipe? Every Sunday, following the 10 am service, GDLC hosts Fellowship in the Fireside Room, where snacks and coffee is served. If you would like to bring something to share (it doesn't have to be homemade ☺), please sign up on the lobby bulletin board for the Sunday that works with your schedule.

Thank You!



December Official Acts

None

Time of Grace

Time of Grace connects people to God's grace—his love, glory, and power—so they realize the temporary things of life don't satisfy. However, through Jesus we have access to the eternal God—right now and forever.

Pastor Mike Novotny

Pastor Mike Novotny has served God's people in full-time ministry since 2007 in Madison and, most recently, at The CORE in Appleton, Wisconsin. He also serves as the lead speaker for Time of Grace, where he shares the good news about Jesus through television, print, and online platforms.

Sundays KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 AM

Subscribe to Time of Grace to be delivered to your email inbox daily. It's easy to subscribe to resources that'll keep you rooted in Jesus. Just select which types of resources you would like to receive and they will be sent right to your inbox www.timeofgrace.org/subscribe

WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS

Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast, **Worship for Shut-Ins**. Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a Lutheran pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. Each program is closed captioned for the hearing impaired.

Weekly programs are broadcast on Total Christian Television (TCT) network -- *DIRECTV channel 377 at 10:30 am on Sundays OR* watch online in the "**Online Viewing**" portion of the website www.worshipforshutins.org!

Special Occasions for Special People



13th Tiffani Martinez 25th Krystal Kruse	<i>No Anniversaries</i>
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JANUARY SERVANTS

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Counters

- 7th Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer**
- 14th Pat Scott and Shirley Slagle**
- 21st Tom and Patty Lyrenmann**
- 28th Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli**

Candles	Flowers
7th Sandy Westling – Jeff’s Birthday (son) 14th 21st 28th	7th 14th 21st 28th

If you sign up for flowers or candles after the newsletter is published, be sure to let the office know. We want to make sure that flowers are ordered and you are properly acknowledged in the bulletin notes. Thanks!



“Let your eyes look directly ahead.
And let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you.”

Proverb 4:25 NIV

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day Pastor's Day Off 5:30 pm Beginners AIAnon 7 pm AIAnon	2 	3 NO 11 am Service and/or Bible	4 NO 5:30 pm Bible Study	5 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	6 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
7 The Baptism of Our Lord 10 am GDLC Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 3 – 5 pm Alpha Class 6 pm NA	8 Pastor's Day Off 5:30 pm Beginners AIAnon 7 pm AIAnon	9	10 11 am Service and & Bible Study + Fellowship	11 5:30 pm Bible Study	12 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	13 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
14 Second Sunday after the Epiphany 10 am GDLC Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 3 – 5 pm Alpha Class 6 pm NA	15 <u>MLK, Jr.</u> Day Observed Pastor's Day Off 5:30 pm Beginners AIAnon 7 pm AIAnon	16 5 pm GDLC Council Meeting	17 11 am Service and & Bible Study + Fellowship	18 5:30 pm Bible Study	19 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	20 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 4 – 5 pm Living Word Board Meeting 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
21 Third Sunday after the Epiphany 10 am GDLC Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 3 pm Pastor M. Cephus Installation 6 pm NA <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	22 Pastor's Day Off 5:30 pm Beginners AIAnon 7 pm AIAnon	23	24 11 am Service and & Bible Study + Fellowship	25 5:30 pm Bible Study	26 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	27 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
28 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 10 am GDLC Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 3 – 5 pm Alpha Class 6 pm NA	29 Pastor's Day Off 5:30 pm Beginners AIAnon 7 pm AIAnon	30	31 11 am Service and & Bible Study + Fellowship			



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

EPIPHANY — JANUARY 1-31

Epiphany is from a Greek word meaning to “reveal” or “make manifest.” The season of Epiphany is our time to focus on the revelation of who Jesus is — both true God and true man — as we remember Christ’s revelation to the Gentiles in the visit of the Wise Men.

Give thanks as you pray:

- 1.** *That God would make us bold witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ in this new year and always.*
- 2.** *For opportunities to witness to friends, family members and strangers. Please send Your Holy Spirit to give us wisdom and faithful words to use during these encounters.*
- 3.** *For our congregations, that God would strengthen them by fostering a faithful Lutheran approach to confessing Christ to neighbors and planting daughter congregations.*

4. *That our schools would be faithful mission outposts, reaching unchurched families with the Gospel and strengthening the faith of church families.*

5. *With thanksgiving for all the Synod’s faithful church workers, that they might be re-energized daily and find great joy in their service.*

6. *That just as You made known Your Son to the Gentiles through the leading of a star, You would continue to bring the light of Your Gospel to the hearts of all people.*

7. *For new church plants and mission starts, that the Lord would help faithful congregations sprout up in every corner of the United States.*

8. *That we would be effective in reaching out to people of different ethnicities who are living in our communities. Pray that the Lord would use us*

as His instruments to make the LCMS a reflection of the Church Triumphant.

9. *For those marching for life, whether at the National March for Life in Washington, D.C., or a pro-life event closer to home. Please pray that all those who attend might be a powerful witness to others.*

10. *For all children, that they would be brought to the saving waters of Baptism and raised in the love, nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

11. *That the Lord would help us raise our children and young people in the faith, always pointing them to the hope and salvation found only in Christ.*

12. *For college students, who are struggling with many different issues and challenges. Ask God to make them receptive to the peace and healing of the Gospel.*

13. *For the aged, that they would be godly examples to the young as they are patient in their tribulations, joyful in their hope, firm in their faith and humble in all they say and do.*

14. *That God would strengthen our hope and impact by encouraging partnerships in the Gospel that clearly confess Christ.*

15. *For the Synod’s 35 districts, that they might have the resources and wisdom to effectively reach out to their communities.*

16. *For strong districts, congregations and Recognized Service Organizations. When our Synod is strong at home, we can better reach out across the world.*

17. *For all missionaries around the world, who leave family and friends to travel to a foreign land to share the Gospel with those who have not heard. Pray that God would grant them safety, wisdom and strength.*

JANUARY *Pray For Us Calendar*

18. *With thanksgiving for all the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who support the work of LCMS missionaries through their prayers and gifts.*

19. *That God would raise up indigenous pastors, deaconesses and other church leaders to reach out to their own communities and share His Word.*

20. *For the Synod's partner churches around the world, that they would continue to teach Christ's Word in all its truth and purity.*

21. *With thanksgiving for all past missionaries. Thanks be to God, the Gospel seeds they planted continue to bear much fruit.*

22. *That God would raise up more missionaries to serve at home and abroad, according to His will.*

23. *That the Lord would open up the hearts and minds of people around the world, so that His grace-filled message can be spread far and wide.*

24. *For discernment, that we might heed God's call to serve in His name, whether around the world or right here at home.*

25. *That God would bless mission work in urban areas and protect those He sends to work in these often-difficult situations.*

26. *For mission work in sub-urban areas, that we would not become complacent in the work God has called us to do in our own communities.*

27. *For mission work in rural areas, that congregations would be equipped to respond to the changing demographics around them.*

28. *That congregation members might be welcoming to every person the Lord brings to their church.*

29. *That God would strengthen our faith so that His Word has free course in our congregations and homes.*

30. *For all people who turn away from the loving arms of their Savior. Pray that the Holy Spirit would transform their hearts and minds.*

31. *With thanksgiving that God has called and equipped us to join in His mission to seek and save the lost. Ask God to give you courage to be His witness in your daily life.*



Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at lcms.org/prayforus or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.

